

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Kinshiro NAITO et al.

Group Art Unit : 1722

Appl. No. : 10/517,318

Examiner : M. V. EWALD

Filed : December 17, 2004

Confirmation No. : 6724

For : DIE AND DIE APPARATUS

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98 and supplemental to the Information Disclosure Statements that were filed previously, Applicants hereby bring to the attention of the Examiner a Japanese Office Action dated August 8, 2006, with respect to patent family member Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-177211, in which the following documents were cited:

- (1) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 5-057687, together with an English language Abstract of the same;
- (2) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 11-058297, together with an English language Abstract of the same;

- (3) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 5-261454, together with an English language Abstract of the same;
- (4) Japanese Laid-Open Utility Model No. SHO 52-99588 (which corresponds to Japanese Utility Model Application No. 51-006559), together with a partial English language translation of the same; and
- (5) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2004-001000 (which corresponds to Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-148746), together with an English language Abstract of the same.

The relevance of these documents, as ascertained with respect to the Japanese claims by the Japanese Examiner, is set forth in the Japanese Office Action.

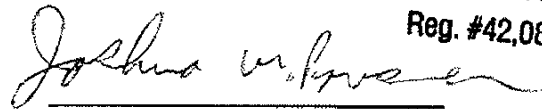
Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. Applicants note the above-noted documents (1) and (3) were previously cited in an Information Disclosure Statement, and thus, copies of documents (1) and (3) are not provided herewith. Copies of the above-noted documents (2), (4) and (5) are attached hereto, and all of the documents are listed on an attached PTO-1449 Form. A copy of the Japanese Office Action is also attached hereto. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form and to return a copy of the completed Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application.

Applicants note that an Office Action on the merits has not issued in the present application, and thus no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kinshiro NAITO et al.

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Bruce H. Bernstein
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September 21, 2006
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